General Assembly

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Fifty-sixth session
Agenda item 68

Resolution adopted by the General Assembly

[*on the report of the First Committee (A/56/530)*]

56/18. Maintenance of international security – good-neighbourliness, stability and development in South-Eastern Europe

The General Assembly,

Recalling the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations and the Final Act of the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe, signed at Helsinki on 1 August 1975,

Recalling also the United Nations Millennium Declaration,[1]

Recalling further its resolutions 48/84 B of 16 December 1993, 50/80 B of 12 December 1995, 51/55 of 10 December 1996, 52/48 of 9 December 1997, 53/71 of 4 December 1998, 54/62 of 1 December 1999 and 55/27 of 20 November 2000,

Convinced of the necessity of enhancing the overall conflict prevention and resolution capability of the United Nations system and other relevant regional organizations to prevent the outbreak of conflicts,

Emphasizing the crucial importance of the full implementation of Security Council resolution 1244 (1999) of 10 June 1999 on Kosovo, Federal Republic of Yugoslavia, and stressing, inter alia, the role and responsibility of the United Nations Interim Administration Mission in Kosovo, supported by the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe and the European Union, and of the Kosovo Force in that regard, as well as the importance of the implementation of Security Council resolutions 1345 (2001) of 21 March 2001 and 1371 (2001) of 26 September 2001,

Commending the significant progress made by the people and the authorities of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia towards establishing democracy and the important steps taken to cooperate with the International Tribunal for the Prosecution of Persons Responsible for Serious Violations of International Humanitarian Law Committed in the Territory of the Former Yugoslavia since 1991,

[1] See resolution 55/2.

Recalling the Stability Pact for South-Eastern Europe, and stressing the importance of the implementation of its objectives, with emphasis on regional cooperation,

Noting the importance of the activities of international organizations, such as the European Union, the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe and the Council of Europe, as well as the contribution of the Central European Initiative and the Black Sea Economic Cooperation, for the implementation of the Stability Pact,

Welcoming the normalization of relations among all States of the Balkan region, and noting, in this respect, the Agreement for the delineation of the borderline between the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia and the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia, signed at Skopje on 23 February 2001,[2] as well as the re-establishment of diplomatic relations between Albania and the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia,

Welcoming also the agreement of 29 June 2001 on succession issues among the States successors to the former Socialist Federal Republic of Yugoslavia,

Welcoming further the signing of stabilization and association agreements and/or European agreements between the countries of the region and the European Union and its member States,

Reiterating the importance of the South-East European Cooperation Process and its contribution to security, stability and good-neighbourly relations in South-Eastern Europe, and recalling in particular the Summit Declaration and the Action Plan for Regional Economic Cooperation, adopted by the heads of State and Government of the participating and observer countries of the South-East European Cooperation Process at Skopje on 23 February 2001,[3]

Emphasizing the crucial importance of strengthening regional efforts in South-Eastern Europe on arms control, demining, disarmament and confidence-building measures, and concerned that, in spite of the ongoing efforts, the illicit trade in small arms and light weapons in all its aspects persists,

Mindful of the importance of national and international activities of all relevant organizations aimed at the creation of peace, security, stability, democracy, cooperation and economic development and the observance of human rights and good-neighbourliness in South-Eastern Europe,

Taking note of the Declaration of Solidarity adopted by the heads of State participating in the Summit Meeting of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization candidate countries held at Sofia on 5 October 2001,[4]

Reaffirming its determination that all nations should live together in peace with one another as good neighbours,

1. *Reaffirms* the need for full observance of the Charter of the United Nations;

2. *Calls upon* all States, the relevant international organizations and the competent organs of the United Nations to respect the principles of territorial

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[2] A/56/60-S/2001/234, annex.
[3] A/55/809-S/2001/172, annex.
[4] A/56/466, annex.

integrity and sovereignty of all States and the inviolability of international borders, to continue to take measures in accordance with the Charter and the commitments of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe and through further development of regional arrangements, as appropriate, to eliminate threats to international peace and security and to help to prevent conflicts in South-Eastern Europe, which can lead to the violent disintegration of States;

3. *Reaffirms* the urgency of consolidating South-Eastern Europe as a region of peace, security, stability, democracy, cooperation and economic development and for the promotion of good-neighbourliness and the observance of human rights, thus contributing to the maintenance of international peace and security and enhancing the prospects for sustained development and prosperity for all peoples in the region as an integral part of Europe, and recognizes the role of the United Nations, the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe and the European Union in promoting regional disarmament;

4. *Calls upon* all participants in the Stability Pact for South-Eastern Europe, as well as all concerned international organizations, to continue to support the efforts of the States of South-Eastern Europe towards regional stability and cooperation so as to enable them to pursue sustainable development and integration into European structures;

5. *Calls upon* all States and relevant international organizations to contribute to the full implementation of Security Council resolution 1244 (1999) on Kosovo, Federal Republic of Yugoslavia, as well as Council resolutions 1345 (2001) and 1371 (2001);

6. *Rejects* the use of violence in pursuit of political aims, and stresses that only peaceful political solutions can assure a stable and democratic future for South-Eastern Europe;

7. *Welcomes* the signing of the Framework Agreement at Ohrid, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, on 13 August 2001, and supports its full and timely implementation by the parties to the Agreement;

8. *Stresses* the importance of good-neighbourliness and the development of friendly relations among States, and calls upon all States to resolve their disputes with other States by peaceful means, in accordance with the Charter;

9. *Urges* the strengthening of relations among the States of South-Eastern Europe on the basis of respect for international law and agreements, in accordance with the principles of good-neighbourliness and mutual respect;

10. *Recognizes* the efforts of the international community, and welcomes in particular the assistance already provided by the European Union, other contributors and the Stability Pact for South-Eastern Europe in promoting the long-term process of democratic and economic development of the region;

11. *Stresses* that the rapprochement of the South-Eastern European States with the European Union will favourably influence the security, political and economic situation in the region, as well as good-neighbourly relations among the States;

12. *Stresses also* the importance of regional efforts aimed at preventing conflicts that endanger the maintenance of international peace and security and, in this regard, notes with satisfaction the role of the Multinational Peace Force for South-Eastern Europe;

13. *Emphasizes* the importance of continuous regional efforts and intensified dialogue in South-Eastern Europe aimed at arms control, disarmament and confidence-building measures as well as strengthening cooperation and undertaking appropriate measures at the national, subregional and regional levels to prevent and suppress acts of terrorism;

14. *Welcomes* the adoption, on 18 July 2001, of the Concluding Document of the negotiations under article V of annex 1.B to the General Framework Agreement for Peace in Bosnia and Herzegovina;[5]

15. *Recognizes* the seriousness of the problem of anti-personnel mines in some parts of South-Eastern Europe, welcomes, in this context, the efforts of the international community in support of mine action, and encourages States to join and support these efforts;

16. *Urges* all States to take effective measures against the illicit trade in small arms and light weapons in all its aspects and to help programmes and projects aimed at the collection and safe destruction of surplus stocks of small arms and light weapons, and stresses the importance of closer cooperation among States, inter alia, in crime prevention, combating terrorism, illicit trade in people, organized crime, drug trafficking and money-laundering;

17. *Calls upon* all States and the relevant international organizations to communicate to the Secretary-General their views on the subject of the present resolution;

18. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its fifty-seventh session the item entitled "Maintenance of international security – good-neighbourliness, stability and development in South-Eastern Europe".

68th plenary meeting
29 November 2001

[5] See A/50/790-S/1995/999.

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7 January 2002

Fifty-sixth session
Agenda item 69

Resolution adopted by the General Assembly

[*on the report of the First Committee (A/56/533)*]

56/19. Developments in the field of information and telecommunications in the context of international security

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolutions 53/70 of 4 December 1998, 54/49 of 1 December 1999 and 55/28 of 20 November 2000,

Recalling also its resolutions on the role of science and technology in the context of international security, in which, inter alia, it recognized that scientific and technological developments could have both civilian and military applications and that progress in science and technology for civilian applications needed to be maintained and encouraged,

Noting that considerable progress has been achieved in developing and applying the latest information technologies and means of telecommunication,

Affirming that it sees in this process the broadest positive opportunities for the further development of civilization, the expansion of opportunities for cooperation for the common good of all States, the enhancement of the creative potential of mankind and additional improvements in the circulation of information in the global community,

Recalling, in this connection, the approaches and principles outlined at the Information Society and Development Conference, held at Midrand, South Africa, from 13 to 15 May 1996,

Bearing in mind the results of the Ministerial Conference on Terrorism, held in Paris on 30 July 1996, and the recommendations that it made,[1]

Noting that the dissemination and use of information technologies and means affect the interests of the entire international community and that optimum effectiveness is enhanced by broad international cooperation,

Expressing concern that these technologies and means can potentially be used for purposes that are inconsistent with the objectives of maintaining international

[1] See A/51/261, annex.

stability and security and may adversely affect the security of States in both civil and military fields,

Considering that it is necessary to prevent the use of information resources or technologies for criminal or terrorist purposes,

Noting the contribution of those Member States that have submitted their assessments on issues of information security to the Secretary-General pursuant to paragraphs 1 to 3 of resolutions 53/70, 54/49 and 55/28,

Taking note of the reports of the Secretary-General containing those assessments,[2]

Welcoming the initiative taken by the Secretariat and the United Nations Institute for Disarmament Research in convening an international meeting of experts at Geneva in August 1999 on developments in the field of information and telecommunications in the context of international security, as well as its results,

Considering that the assessments of the Member States contained in the reports of the Secretary-General and the international meeting of experts have contributed to a better understanding of the substance of issues of international information security and related notions,

1. *Calls upon* Member States to promote further at multilateral levels the consideration of existing and potential threats in the field of information security, as well as possible measures to limit the threats emerging in this field, consistent with the need to preserve the free flow of information;

2. *Considers* that the purpose of such measures could be served through the examination of relevant international concepts aimed at strengthening the security of global information and telecommunications systems;

3. *Invites* all Member States to continue to inform the Secretary-General of their views and assessments on the following questions:

(*a*) General appreciation of the issues of information security;

(*b*) Definition of basic notions related to information security, including unauthorized interference with or misuse of information and telecommunications systems and information resources;

(*c*) The content of the concepts mentioned in paragraph 2 of the present resolution;

4. *Requests* the Secretary-General to consider existing and potential threats in the sphere of information security and possible cooperative measures to address them, and to conduct a study on the concepts referred to in paragraph 2 of the present resolution, with the assistance of a group of governmental experts, to be established in 2004, appointed by him on the basis of equitable geographical distribution and with the help of Member States in a position to render such assistance, and to submit a report on the outcome of the study to the General Assembly at its sixtieth session;

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[2] A/54/213, A/55/140 and Corr.1 and Add.1, and A/56/164 and Add.1.

5. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its fifty-seventh session the item entitled "Developments in the field of information and telecommunications in the context of international security".

68th plenary meeting
29 November 2001